

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2018

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler lecture room. CSEC members present were Janet Miller (Chair), Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Julie Kleyn (clerk), Sam Lines, Doug Sharpe and Jerry Frenkil. Also present were Kate Hanley, Bob Zogg, Jan Aceti, Brian Foulds, Alice Kaufman, Lawrence Masland, Bob Grom and Greg Proulx.

Welcome

Janet welcomed new CSEC member, Jerry Frenkil and welcomed visitors.

Brad moved that CSEC accept the May 8th meeting minutes as revised and Sam seconded. CSEC unanimously approved the motion.

Home MVP Presentation

Visitor Lawrence Masland gave a 20-minute presentation on the Pilot for the Home Energy Market Value Performance. The pilot will run 2 years, started Nov 2017 til Oct 2019. The goal is to have 800 projects, but at present there are only 70 in the works (some are audits, 10 are completed).

Home MVP is different from MassSave because it is contractor-driven. Contractors have more autonomy to choose their own package of energy efficiency, set their own materials, marketing and pricing.

Once a job is complete, contractors get paid based on what they save. Most contractors share this incentive with customer.

Reason for low numbers, LM says, is too few contractors: the program needs more contractors.

Special software used by Home MVP is SnugPro – a good predictor of energy savings.

Jan said CMLP/ENE just adopted SnugPro and agreed that if a customer is a good candidate for MVP (could save more than 5%) that they'll refer customer to the MVP program. The goal is to make it seamless for the homeowner to go from CMLP to MVP. CMLP will share audit results with the SnugPro contractor.

MVP provides energy score card. Contractors will try to beat these scores to be competitive, and to show residents their energy use after as compared with before work.

Weatherization is first goal with these projects.

Kate asked if the best way for Concord residents is to go through ENE (weatherization audit), Lawrence said yes, makes it easier for contractor because they can learn a lot about the home thru the ENE audit. Also, once audit is done, residents can get a 0% \$25k loan (7 years) mirroring MassSave's loan.

Bob Zogg asked whether customer's savings are on entire bill, Lawrence said whole energy use. If you have multiple energy sources like gas and electric, it would be 5% of total.

Bob Zogg asked what contractors in the MVP program must do to be qualified. Lawrence said there's a training process. Lawrence has reached out to many contractors but the program needs many more (currently only 12).

Bob Zogg asked how much money avail for the 800 hoped-for projects (LH said about \$4 million).

Some funding comes from DOER.

(Bob Zogg and Jan Aceti left the meeting after this presentation)

Chair Report

Town house volunteer appreciation party is on June 21 at 5pm. All CSEC members welcome.

Upcoming meetings: July 10

A discussion of quorum ensued. The committee decided 4 out of 6 was acceptable and within regulations. Sam, Jerry, Janet and Julie will attend July 10 meeting.

New committee charge: the new CSEC charge has been approved and Kate recapped the difference between the old and the new. The new charge is more in line with what CSEC actually does now (community/resident-oriented).

Doug volunteered to be the liaison with the new organization the Climate Action Advisory Board, CAAB (note "Change" is not part of the new Board's title, this was a typo).

Sam will continue to be the liaison to CMLP.

Julie continues as school liaison.

Doug is the committee expert on building science.

Janet reported on last week's meeting with Kristin Dupre about the ENE EV program. Currently an estimated 7.7 per 1,000 people in Concord own EVs (approx. 125-150 vehicles). Concord is a leader for EV in the State but other towns are working hard on this too.

A discussion followed, led by Brian, concerning options that CMLP is exploring to achieve an effective charging system in Town, one that facilitates charging at off-peak hours and reduces upfront installation costs for residents. Smart meters, CMLP proposes as idea to keep charging cars off peak hours. Some options being discussed are:

- Sub meters (in 3 years, sub meters will be irrelevant)
- Cares fund rebate for EV charger
- A new ENE website designated to improving charging system in Town
- EVs programmed by smartphone
- ENE also to hire an EV specialist
- FleetCarma – data logger for car they would provide
- Emotorworks – their charging unit is a meter they could control during peak time

Brian said there are many options, no solutions yet, and Janet said more will be known in the coming months.

Sustainability Director's Report

Kate pointed out that while CAAB has an approved charge, there are no members yet. Collecting green cards now.

The GHG inventory being worked on with a consultant is going well. This will be a good data source for all climate change/energy groups in Town. Kate wants a community event organized around the results of the GHG inventory data report, when available, so that everyone can share this valuable information.

The Town has received a grant from the State for MVP program (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness...not to be confused with Lawrence's Home MVP program!). The purpose of the MVP is to help municipalities in MA identify their climate-based vulnerabilities and adapt and prepare for them. Once identified, the Town can apply for larger action grants. The Town also applied for extra funds for community engagement and extra scope and received \$33k in total. This will fund a formulaic workshop (1 or 2 days in September).

Kate said she should be hearing back about Green Communities grant before next meeting.

HeatSmart Report (Brad)

1.5 months left of the program, but some funds remain to be spent so extension/modification of program through Sept with outreach is being discussed.

Results to date:

	ASHP		GSHP		MWH	
	Concord	Total	Concord	Total	Concord	Total
Site visits	61	87	28	47	0	0
Proposals	60	85	14	28	0	0
Contracts	10	12	2	12	0	0

(Not including contracted outside the 3 selected installers)

Brad says overall fewer – but larger -- systems than expected have been adopted.

There is a discussion about extending the program a couple months, with continued rebates from CMLP. Based on contracts, at least double the number of contracts signed with other installers can be expected. These can be counted from rebates applied for.

Brad says in hindsight would have been good to have more contractors per technology, because the 3 selected installers are overwhelmed and not getting back to people as quickly as they should, leading to some frustration amongst homeowners.

An additional event for contractors/realtors may be planned so that new residents and people planning construction will be informed of heat pump options.

Extending and modifying the HeatSmart program could dovetail well with the MVP program.

Jerry asked what the best way is for someone to find out about getting a heat pump, HeatSmart or MVP? Brad said starting with energy audit is best way: CMLP rebate is same for MVP and HS.

Brad reported that the CCHS environmental science AP class mailing had been well-received, and that he'd received lots of emails and sign-ups since the 2000 letters went out to homes identified in the Marketing Segmentation Analysis that would likely benefit from heat pump technology.

On May 18, Brad and Julie had met with ES teacher, Callie Yousha, and this led to several brainstorming sessions where the students wrote and, later that week, addressed the letter. Janet shared with the group a Concord Journal Letter to the Editor that Brad had submitted about the mailing. Alice and Brian said they had received letters and found them well-written and compelling.

Gilda Gussin wrote a Journal article last week, “Residents are happy with heat pumps”, relating residents’ experiences with air-source and ground-source heat pumps in their homes.

HeatSmart MeetUp Event June 11 – Brad met with 7 residents who had heard about the program and had questions and wanted to get started.

Brad is considering making an informational video based on HeatSmart experience and including testimonials which could be used after the program ends. Possibly for use on CCTV.

Cooler Concord Report

Janet said some CC rebates are ending as funding has been used up. Appliance rebates end June 30.

There is a plan to absorb the CC and HeatSmart website/information into a new Town sustainability website. A discussion ensued where Doug pointed out that the CC website has pop and appeal and is very user-friendly. There is concern this would be lost if it were subsumed into the Town’s website. Alice pointed out that the recently upgraded Town website had won an award for design and content.

Concern was also expressed regarding how residents would access the websites and how they would be directed from one site to the others.

Kate said it was work in progress, that it would be challenging to bring all these websites together successfully into one and that she was working on mapping out the content. Brad and Janet promised to help work on this project with Kate and Erin Stevens.

Report on EV Event (Brian Foulds)

Not much to update yet, Brian has put in for permit and DCR are actively reviewing it. Walden says that the Sept 15 date is good, 11-3 pm.

Brian is concerned about the Ride & Drive part of the event, needs to get people to sign up ahead of time, show up and get in cars and drive them. Brian is working on getting funding for this.

Brian says people come with preconceptions of what an EV is, and it’s important to drive them and see how great they are, like a regular gas-powered car.

There will be presentations ahead of time to debunk the myths of EV ownership. Janet said CSEC can support this with posters, and marketing outreach.

A lot of Concord EV owners will attend, dealers too. Mass Clean Energy Alliance will be there with discounts.

Liaison Reports

Brian attended a recent CMLP board meeting regarding RECs. Brian said CMLP voted to collect RECs and the new billing rates would take effect Sept 1, with a penny-per-kilowatt increase to fund the purchase of the RECs. Residents will see this change in their bills in September. Tiered rates were not discussed.

What kind of RECs to buy? Mass Class 1 is the choice. \$20 per REC.

Public Comments

Alice mentioned that 2 big paving projects (Keyes Road and Walden Street) are coming up, and more charging stations will be added. Brad said we need fast charging stations to encourage tourists/visitors with EVs.

Alice said a new bike-sharing program, Zagster, is coming to town. To start with, there will be one bike pick-up and drop-off station at the visitor center.

Brad said there's a meeting this Sat June 23, 10am-4pm: the MCAN Green Muni Summit. Kate and Brad will give a joint presentation at 11:30. Janet and Alice will be there and a couple CMLP members will be there also. Click [here](#) for more information.

At 9pm, Brad motioned to adjourn. And Sam seconded.

Submitted on June 20, 2018

By Julie Kleyn (clerk)